



Akita University (Akita)



Understanding of Japanese culture from a unique view point of Akita

■ Introduction

① History and Features

Akita University is a comprehensive university comprising four faculties, namely, Faculty of Education and Human Studies, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Engineering Science and Faculty of International Resource Sciences.

The Faculty of Education and Human Studies has a long history. Up to the end of the past 120 years, as a center of teacher's training and local culture it has produced a lot of talented people for the fields of education, liberal arts and culture.



② Academic agreements

The international exchange is very brisk in Akita University. We have inter-university agreements with 57 universities in 29 countries and regions as of October 1, 2018.

③ Number of International students and Japanese Studies Program (J-Program) students accepted over the last 3 years (as of Oct. 1 each year)

2016: International Students 198, J-Program 2

2017: International Students 215, J-Program 3

2018: International Students 199, J-Program 2

④ Environments of Akita

Akita City is in the central part of Akita Prefecture, located on the western side of Tohoku District (the Northeastern Part of Mainland).

Akita is rich in natural beauty of the seasons. Students can enjoy hiking and hot springs through every seasons.

There are also numerous places of historical interest as well as traditional festivals in and around Akita. People in this area are friendly and warmhearted, as you will find.



Akita Dog



Lake Tazawa



Kanto-Festival



Kamakura-Festival

■ Outline of the program

① Purpose of the training

A course intended mainly to study about Japan and Japanese culture with supplementary study to improve Japanese language proficiency.

② Contents of the Course

This program is for those students from other countries wish to improve their Academic Japanese skills to pursue their academic goal in university. We also accept students who have interested in starting their research about Japan from an unique view point of Akita area.

● The aims of **Japanese Language course** are as follows;

- 1) To be able to understand lectures in Japanese and take notes in Japanese.
- 2) To be able to write papers and technical reports in Japanese.
- 3) To be able to participate in discussions in Japanese in upper level seminar classes.

● The aims of **Japanese Culture course** are to get basic knowledge of the latest Japanese cultural studies analyzed through local viewpoint. Students will attend Invitation to Multi-cultural Communication and Studies on Japan, and so on.

● At the end of the one-year-course, all Japanese studies students are required to write short papers as final reports.

③ Number of Students to be accepted : 4

- [Recommendation by university: 2]
- [Recommendation by embassy: 2]

④ Qualifications and Conditions of Applicants

Those who wish to apply for our program should at least have mastered basic grammar of the language, should be able to take part in everyday conversation and should be able to read and write nontechnical papers.

To specify, the applicants must be enrolled in the university out of Japan in a faculty or department that offers studies related to Japanese language and culture. Those who are going to apply for our program should have studied Japanese longer than 600 hours and have learned more than 6,000 words and 1,000 Kanji (Chinese characters) with a minimum level of JLPT N2.

⑤ Program Goals

● Study Japanese

We will support those advanced international students who are going to conduct academic research in Japanese. Courses are designed to teach students how to make presentations in Japanese.

We will put much emphasis on communicative Japanese abilities to express own interests properly as well as equivalent abilities with JLPT N1.

● Study Japanese Culture

You will acquire general knowledge of Japan and specific knowledge of the local language and culture of Akita prefecture through various experience and highly specialized lectures.

⑥ Period of Program

1) Arrival to Japan : Late September 2019

2) Period of Scholarship :

From October 2019 to August 2020

3) Leave Japan : Late August 2020

The completion ceremony will be held in August 2020 (The last ceremony was held in August 2, 2018).

⑦ General Outline of Subjects Offered

You will take Japanese language and culture classes for writing reports. You will submit a report based on your personal research. You can read the reports written by the previous students at the following web page.

www.akita-u.ac.jp/honbu/inter_en/in_class.html

1) Compulsory Subject

i) Compulsory Subject and Contents of Completion Program (90min × 15)

Research Paper	Writing a paper based on knowledge learned in Japanese Language classes and Japanese Culture classes, and daily life in Akita.
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ii) Elective Compulsory Subject (Japanese Language) (90min × 30)

4- I / II	Intermediate level grammar and communicative skills on campus
4- III/IV	Reading and writing skills for academic life
4- V/VI	Integrated project-work class to improve Intermediate level Japanese competence
5- I / II	Advanced writing skills for research papers
5- III/IV	Public speaking skills: Discussion/oral presentation skills
5- V/VI	Improving techniques of oral communication skills for study and job hunting
5-VII/VIII	Advanced level grammar and communicative skills
5-IX	Writing skills of various Japanese style
5-X	Basic reading skills research papers



Farm Stay

2) Participatory field Study and Local Exchange Subjects(90min × 15) - Elective Subject

An Introduction to Japanese Culture I / II	Understanding culture in Japan and Akita thorough lectures by off campus activities, firm stay, and so on.
Invitation to Multicultural Communication I / II (90min × 30)	Finding micro-cultures next to you thorough discussing with Japanese students and writing a paper
Field Study for Social Education	Conducting presentation/field trip based on a regional town development

3) Subjects conducted with regular Japanese students(90min × 15) - Elective Compulsory Subject

Introduction to Japanese Society I/II	Learning cultures of Akita and Japan
Classical Literature in Japan	Understanding of classical literature through reading classical literatures
Introduction to Japanese literature	Learning Modern Japanese Literature History and reading Modern Literature
Introduction to Japanese Language Education	Examine the historical context of Japanese language education, purpose and problems of practical research, and philosophy and evaluation of language education.
Japanese Culture	Learning about postpositional particle
Modern Japanese literature	Reading the "Kokoro" of Soseki Natsume.
Introduction to Multicultural Communication I / II	Finding micro-cultures next to you through discussing with Japanese students and writing a Paper.

4) Other subjects(90min × 15) - Elective Subject

Sports Class	Football Judo Handball
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Various other classes are prepared.

⑧ Events (Examples)

Late September : Arrival to Japan, Orientation

October : Program starts

November : Farm Stay

December : Making Mochi Party

February : Winter Cultural Experience Trip
Ski Trip

July : Summer Bus Trip

August : Completion Ceremony

Late August : Leave Japan

Other activities are also offered such as Kimono, tea ceremony and Japanese flower arrangement.



Ski Trip



Mochi Party

⑨ Academic Advising

Associate Professor ICHISHIMA Noriko

(International Exchange Center)

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Assistant Professor SASAKI Ryoza

(International Exchange Center)

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Assistant Professor HAMADA Noriko

(International Exchange Center)

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The International Exchange Center offers counseling services and support for various issues regarding daily life, health and study.

⑩ Requirements for Program Completion

1) Take more than 7 classes for each semester

2) Submit the Research Paper

Certificates will be issued in August, 2020.

■ Accommodations

● Number of single rooms

① International Student House : 27

② International House Building A : 10

③ International House Building B : 18

Not all applicants will be able to get the accommodations due to the limited number of rooms available.

If the accommodations are not available, you can find an apartment through the Akita Univ. Co-op.

● Actual number of availability for Japanese Studies Program students

•2016 International House Building B : 2

•2017 International Student House : 2

International Student House : 1

•2018 International Student House : 2

● Monthly rent (Utility fees are not included)

①② 5,900 JPY ③ 15,000 JPY

● Each room is equipped with:

Bathroom, refrigerator, kitchenette, bed, desk, bookshelf

(Need to prepare your own bedding and kitchen utensils)

● Distance from campus on foot

①15 min. / ②③ 5 min.

● Web-site

www.akita-u.ac.jp/honbu/inter_en/in_living.html



International Student House



International House



Rice Harvest Trip

■ Follow-up of Alumni

We upload your research paper on our website so that other researchers can access it and can contact you.

In order to develop your research paper into a graduate thesis, we will continue helping you to complete it even after you return your home country.

We also keep in contact with international students on Facebook.

● Examples of career paths

- 1) To engage in home university and Japanese education.
- 2) To advance to graduate school in Japan
- 3) To engage in hotel in Japan
- 4) To engage in Japanese Embassy in home country

■ Enquiries

<Contact>

International Exchange Center
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International Exchange Center :

www.akita-u.ac.jp/honbu/inter_en/

Akita University :

www.akita-u.ac.jp/eng/index.html